



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Vale District Office  
100 Oregon Street  
Vale, Oregon 97918  
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale/>



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1790

January 15, 2004

Dear Interested Citizen:

A Plan Conformance and Categorical Exclusion Determination (OR-030-2004-002) has been prepared by the Vale District, Bureau of Land Management for fuels treatment activities in the Castle Rock area (see enclosed map). Public and private landowners and interested publics were consulted via personal contacts and letter beginning in April of 2003 to solicit input into proposed activities. The letter and attached document is to inform you of the decision to treat fuels within the project area and the treatments that will be implemented.

### **Project Area Descriptions**

The proposed fuels treatment is located on BLM managed lands in the Castle Rock area approximately 20 miles northwest of the town of Juntura, Oregon. The legal description of the project area is as follows: T.18S, R.37E., Sec. 2, 3, and 4, and T.17S., R.37E., Sec. 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34 and 35. The Castle Rock fuels treatment area is comprised of approximately 850 acres.

### **Purpose and Need for the Action**

The purpose of this project is to initiate fuels reduction in the Castle Rock area. Forest stands within the proposed project area are dense, and have suffered from insect and disease-related tree mortality. Large amounts of dead and downed material and pine slash can be found throughout the area. Historically, wildfire acted as a natural thinning agent and the removal of fire as an ecosystem maintenance agent has resulted in the accumulation of large quantities of fuel. These dense stand conditions, as well as the presence of large quantities of dead, rotting wood have reduced stand vigor, dramatically increased susceptibility to disease and insect infestations, and significantly raised the potential for a catastrophic stand-replacing fire.

If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact Randy Eyre at (541) 473-6279.

Sincerely,

s/Tom Dabbs

Tom Dabbs  
Malheur Field Office Manager

Encl; Plan Conformance and Categorical Exclusion Determination, map of the project area